

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 EA-11

ABF-01 /191 W

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R 161334Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7394

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD UNN

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 12062

STATE FOR NEA/INS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, NP

SUBJ: NEPALESE KING'S VISIT TO INDIA

BEGIN SUMMARY: AS FAR AS INDIA IS CONCERNED, THE KING OF NEPAL'S STATE VISIT WENT WELL IN SOME WAYS BUT NOT SO WELL IN OTHERS. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE ACCORDING TO THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS THE NAPALESE PUBLIC AFFIRMATION OF THE NEED FOR "RECOGNITION OF REALITIES" IN THE SUBCONTINENT. ALSO, THE GOI AGREED TO PROVIDE NEPAL WITH NEEDED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND OTHER ITEMS IN SHORT SUPPLY IN INDIA. THERE WAS SOME PROGRESS IN DISCUSSIONS OF THE PROPOSED KARNALI HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT AS WELL. BUT THE NEPALESE HIT THE GOI HARD ON INDIA'S HARBORING OF THE DISSIDENT NEPALI CONGRESS AND IN PARTICULAR ON GOI FAILURE TO CAPTURE THE HIJACKERS OF A NEPALESE AIRCRAFT LAST JUNE. END SUMMARY.

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1. FOREIGN MINISTRY DESK OFFICER FOR NEPAL KIRAN DOSHI BRIEFED

EMBOFF ON KING OF NEPAL'S VISIT TO DELHI OCTOBER 12-14. DURING VISIT KING SAW PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER AS WELL AS OTHER MINISTERS WHO, BECAUSE OF THE LONG OPEN BORDER AND CLOSE ECONOMIC TIES, ARE CONCERNED WITH MATTERS DIRECTLY AFFECTING NEPAL -- PLANNING, COMMERCE, IRRIGATION AND POWER, HOME AFFAIRS. THE INDIANS WERE PLEASED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST STATE VISIT OF THE NEW KING. THEY FOUND THE TALKS FRANK AND BUSINESSLIKE TO AN EXTENT NOT USUSALLY POSSIBLE IN SUCH AFFAIRS.

2. NEPALI CONGRESS LEADERS IN INDIA: WHILE DOSHI HAD NOT SEEN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING BETWEEN THE KING AND MRS. GANDHI, THE NEPALESE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD OPENED THE PARELLEL TALK WITH THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WITH A LONG DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM OF THE LEADERS OF THE NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY WHOM INDIA HAS HARBORED SINCE THE DISMISSAL OF THE NEPALI CONGRESS GOVERNMENT IN 1960. FOREIGN MINISTER KARKI PUSHED VERY HARD FOR STRONG GOI ACTION AGAINST THEM INDIA EXPLAINED THAT IT WATCHED THE NEPALI CONGRESS ACTIVISTS CLOSELY. IT COULD AND INDEED DID PREVENT THEM FROM MOUNTING MAJOR OPERATIONS. IT WOULD NOT DENY THEM REFUGE, HOWEVER, AND IT COULD NOT PREVENT OCCASIONAL INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE JUNE HIJACKING ROBBERY OF THE NEPALESE AIRCRAFT. WHILE THE INDIAN BUREAUCRACY WAS SLOW, SOONER OR LATER IT WOULD CATCH THE HIJACKERS. (CONVENIENTLY, THERE WERE PRESS REPORTS ON THE LAST DAY OF THE VISIT OF THE CAPTURE OF A JEEP ALLEGEDLY USED BY THE HIJACKERS IN MAKING THEIR GETAWAY.) INDIAN HAD REITERATED IT WOULD NOT ALLOW ANTI-NEPAL ACTIVITIES FROM INDIAN TERRITORY, AND BOTH PRESIDENT GIRI'S BANQUET SPEECH AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO REFRAIN FROM INTERFERING IN EACH OTHER'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

3. ALTHOUGH THE NAPALESE OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED THE INDIAN STATEMENTS, DOSHI FELT THEY WERE NOT CONVINCED OR COMPLETELY FRANK ABOUT THEIR SUSPICIONS. HE OBSERVED (AS DID DILIP MUKERJEE WRITING IN THE TIMES OF INDIA RECENTLY) THAT IN SOME WAYS IT SERVES NEPAL'S INTERESTS TO HAVE THE ISSUE OF THE NEPALI CONGRESS EXILES IN INDIA REMAIN UNRESOLVED. BY STARTING OFF WITH IT IN THE DISCUSSION WITH SWARAN SINGH, FOR EXAMPLE, THE NEPALESE PUT THE INDIANS ON THE DEFENSIVE. ALSO, DOSHI SUSPECTED

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THERE MIGHT BE SOME PEOPLE IN NEPAL INTERESTED IN HAVING THE ISSUE AS A CONVENIENT EXCUSE IN TIME OF POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

4. ECONOMIC COOPERATION: INDIA AGAIN EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR ITS INTEREST IN CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND PLANNING WITH NEPAL. DOSHI BELIEVED THE NEPALESE ARE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND INDIAN CONCERNS, EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT READY FOR SUCH COOPERA-

TION NOW AND MAY NEVER REALLY PARTICIPATE FOR FEAR OF BEING OVERWHELMED. THE NEPALESE FOR THEIR PART WANTED BETTER ACCESS TO THE INDIAN MARKET FOR NEPALESE FINISHING OR ASSEMBLY OPERATIONS BASED ON SEMI-FINISHED COMPONENTS FROM ABROAD. MORE IMMEDIATELY, THEY WANTED INDIA TO INCREASE ITS SUPPLY OF "QUOTA GOODS" SUCH AS CEMENT AND STRUCTURAL STEEL. ALTHOUGH SUCH ITEMS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY INN INDIA, NEPAL'S NEEDS ARE SMALL AND THE VISIT HELPED TO CLEAR THE BUREAUCRATIC WAY FOR INDIA TO PROVIDE MORE OF THESE ITEMS. THIS WAS WHAT PRESIDENT FIRI MEANT WHEN IN HIS FAREWELL HE REFERRED TO "CONCRETE RESULTS WHOSE IMPACT ON THE WELL -BEING OF OUR PEOPLES WILL BE EVIDENT SHORTLY". THERE HAD ALSO BEEN SOME PROGRESS IN THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE PROPOSED KARNALI HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, THE POWER FROM WHICH INDIA NEEDS. INDIA BELIEVES THE MAIN IMPEDIMENT CONTINUES TO BE NEPALESE LACK OF BUREAUCRATIC AND TECHNICALIUELF CONFIDENCE OFR SUCH A HUGE PROJECT, RATHER THAN POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. INDIA WANTS TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PLANNING; IF THE PROPOSED DAM WERE TO COLLAPSE, FOR EXAMPLE, IT COULD FLOOD HALF OF INDIA'S LARGEST STATE, U.P. THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIAL DISCUSSION OF NEPAL'S TRANSIT RE-QUIREMENTS.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 12062

4. INDIA-PAKISTAN: A MAJOR GAIN FOR INDIA, ACCORDING TO DOSHI, WAS THE INCLUSION IN THE COMMUNIQUE OF LANGUAGE REFLECTING INDIA'S VIEW OF THE FUTURE ON THE SUBCONTINENT. NEPAL HAD NOT DONE THIS SINCE THE 1971 WAR, HE SAID. THE COMMUNIQUE NOTES THE KING'S APPRECIATION OF INDIA'S EFFORTS "TO ACHIEVE A DURABLE PEACE AND GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS IN THE SUBCONTINENT". WELCOMES THE SIMLA AGREEMENT AND EXPRESSES HOPE FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE FUTURE. "IN THIS CONTEXT BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR MUTUAL TRUST AND ACCEPTANCE AND RECOGNITION OF THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION". THIS WAS INDIA'S LANGUAGE ACCORDING TO DOSHI. NEPAL'S ACCEPTANCE OF IT CERTIFIED THE END OF NEPAL'S PRE-1971 EFFORTS TO BUILD UP ITS RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO INDIA. NOW NEPAL WANTED GOOD RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH AND WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY IGNORING PAKISTAN.

5. OTHER COUNTRIES: THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF NEPAL'S RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES BEYOND THE SUBCONTINENT, SUCH AS CHINA. INDIA HAD NOT RAISED CHINA, DOSHI THOUGHT IT WAS INDICATIVE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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GREATER NEPALESE SELF CONFIDENCE THAT THEY HAD NOT FELT IT NECESSARY TO MENTION THEIR RELATIONS WITH CHINA AS A "REMINDER" TO INDIA. THE US -- AND SPECIFICALLY PL480 RUPEES FOR OUR AID PROGRAM IN NEPAL -- HAD NOT COME UP.

6. THE MIDDLE EAST: THE TWO SIDES SPENT TWO HOURS SEARCHING FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE ON THE MIDDLE EAST. PRESIDENT GIRI IN HIS BANQUET SPEECH HAD REITERATED INDIAN SUPPORT FOR THE ARABS. THE KING, WHO HAS RECEIVED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM ISRAEL, ONLY EXPRESSED CONCERN AND HOPE THAT REASON WOULD PREVAIL AND THE SITUATION WOULD RETURN TO NORMAL. GIVEN ITS COMPARATIVE STRENGTH AND ITS HISTORIC SUPPORT FOR THE ARABS, INDIA PROBABLY FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO COMPROMISE ON "BALANCED" LANGUAGE. AT THE SAME TIME, IT COULDN'T LEAVE IT OUT. IN THE END IT ACCEPTED AN EXPRESSION OF "GRAVE ANXIETY" AND A CALL "FOR AN EARLY RESTORATION OF PEACE AND FOR A JUST AND ENDURING SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON THE SUBJECT".

7. COMMENT: THE DISCUSSIONS HIGHLIGHTED INDIA'S POLICY OF COMPARATIVE GENEROSITY ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REFUSING TO EXPEL THE NEPALI CONGRESS SUPPORTERS. IT RECOGNIZES IT WILL NEVER HAVE REALLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEPAL AS LONG AS THE NEPALI CONGRESS PEOPLE REMAIN IN INDIA. IT IS WILLING TO RESTRICT THEIR ACTIVITIES TO THE POINT WHERE THEY POSE NO ACTIVE THREAT TO THE MONARCHY, BUT IT WANTS TO

KEEP THEM ON HAND SHOULD THE MONARCHY COLLAPSE BY ITSELF,
AS INDIA FEARS IT MAY.

8. SUMMARY SENT TELEGRAPHICALLY TO INFO ADDRESSEES.
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